

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 15 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 15.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4 and 5 are amended for better clarity. The specification is amended, as the Examiner requested. Fig. 15 is amended to add a label "the number 60" to refer to the apparatus illustrated in Fig. 15, as originally described in paragraphs 78-80. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Lee for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the November 21, 2005 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification and Fig. 15 are amended, as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the claims, and rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are amended for better clarity, as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims and the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,002,305 to Sanford et al. ("Sanford") in view of U.S. Patent 5,982,256 to Uchimura et al. ("Uchimura"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, Sanford and Uchimura do not disclose or suggest a first waveguide having a ground electrode and a line-shaped conductor portion, wherein an end of the line-shaped conductor portion is directly conductively connected to one of the ground electrodes of the second waveguide, as recited in claim 1. In particular, Sanford discloses in Figs. 1-3 that a transition 38 of transmission line 16 intrudes into the interior of conductor 30.

Thus, the transition 38 does not end on a ground electrode. Also, Uchimura discloses in Fig. 17 that the end of the conductor pattern 96 is an open end due to slot hole 90. Thus, the end of the conductor 96 does not share the ground plane, and thus is not short circuited to a ground electrode.

Furthermore, as discussed during the personal interview, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Sanford and Uchimura. In particular, as Examiner Lee indicated, there would not have been any motivation to combine the teachings of Sanford and Uchimura for conductively connecting an end of the line-shaped conductor portion of the first waveguide to one of the ground electrodes of the second waveguide.

For any or all of the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sanford in view of U.S. Patent 6,380,825 to Takenoshita et al. ("Takenoshita"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview and summarized above, Sanford does not disclose or suggest a first waveguide having a ground electrode and a line-shaped conductor portion, wherein an end of the line-shaped conductor portion is directly conductively connected to one of the ground electrodes of the second waveguide, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Takenoshita does not disclose or suggest such a feature. Thus, Takenoshita does not supply the subject matter lacking in Sanford. Hence, Sanford and Takenoshita do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1, and claims 4 and 5 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GXL/sqb

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination
Replacement Sheet

Date: December 19, 2005

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